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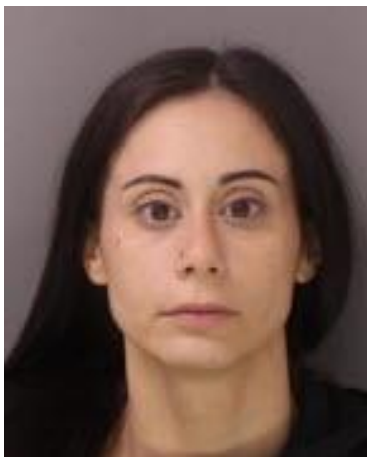
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOTHER AND BOYFRIEND ARRESTED AFTER HER 6-YEAR-OLD SON OVERDOSED AND DIED DUE TO FENTANYL, XYLAZINE



KRISTEN SABATINO



MATTHEW SANTIAGO

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Oct. 27, 2023) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Norristown Acting Police Chief Michael Bishop announce the arrests of Kristen Sabatino, 31, and Matthew Santiago, 35, both of the 1,000 block of Willow Street in Norristown, on charges of Involuntary Manslaughter and Endangering the Welfare of a Child for the overdose death of Sabatino's 6-year-old son.

Norristown Police were called to the home at 12:38 p.m. on Sunday, July 16, 2023, for a report of an unconscious boy who was not breathing. They arrived to find Dominic Lyons in his bedroom obviously deceased. An autopsy was performed on July 17, 2023, by Dr. Khalil Wardak with the Montgomery County Coroner's Office and the results then were "pending further testing." Results of testing of the boy's blood found fentanyl and xylazine—a veterinary sedative known on the street as "Tranq"—in high levels, which indicated that the boy had ingested the drugs as that amount in his blood could not be caused by trace contact with the drugs. Dr. Wardak subsequently determined that the cause of Dominic's death was drug intoxication from fentanyl and xylazine, and the manner of death was homicide.

A joint homicide investigation was launched by Norristown Police and Montgomery County Detectives. The investigation found that both Sabatino and Santiago had a history of drug use. Cell phone records, interviews and other investigative methods revealed that Sabatino and Santiago had purchased and consumed illegal drugs in the days leading up to when boy was found dead on Sunday. The defendants said they put the boy to bed at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, when he said he did not feel well. They then found him dead in his bunk bed after noon the next day and immediately called 911.

Santiago was arrested on Oct. 25, 2023. He was arraigned by Magisterial District Judge Juanita Price, who set bail at \$1 million cash with a condition of no unsupervised contact with a minor and comply with the Office of Children and Youth. A bail review hearing was held on Oct. 26, 2023, by Court of Common Pleas Judge Steven T. O'Neill, who declined to modify bail. Santiago was unable to make bail and was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing for Santiago is scheduled for 10 a.m., Nov. 3, 2023, before Magisterial District Judge Todd Barnes.

On Oct. 27, 2023, Sabatino was arrested by the Lancaster City Police at a hotel in Lancaster, Pa. She is being transferred to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility, where she will be arraigned and bail will be set. At the arraignment, the preliminary hearing will also be scheduled.

Approved for release:

Edward F. McCann Jr.
First Assistant District Attorney

CRIMINAL CHARGES, AND ANY DISCUSSION THEREOF, ARE MERELY ALLEGATIONS AND ALL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY.